

Office of Congressman Charles W. Dent  
*Proudly Representing Pennsylvania's 15<sup>th</sup> District*



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## Congressman Dent lauds Defense bill to support troops in the field

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Rep. Charlie Dent (PA-15) today voted for the 2007 Defense Appropriations Bill, HR 5631, which will provide important funding for critical defense needs and fully support ongoing missions. The Department of Defense Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2007 passed Tuesday night by a vote of 407-19.

The annual appropriations bill funds the Defense Department at \$377.6 billion – plus supplemental bridge funding of \$50 billion for operations in Iraq and Afghanistan — for fiscal year 2007. It funds critical defense needs including troop protection, operation and maintenance, research and development, and emergency wartime appropriation needs. The bill also fully funds a 2.2 percent military pay raise, effective January 1, 2007.

“This week, members of the 228th Forward Support Battalion of the Pennsylvania National Guard are returning home to my district from the Sunni Triangle in Iraq,” Congressman Dent said. “In honor of them and all who serve, I’m proud to vote for a bill that ensures we support the men and women fighting our missions, and looks to the future of national defense.”

Among other things, H.R. 5631, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2007, will provide the following:

- \$1.5 billion to develop improvised explosive device countermeasures;

- An additional \$725 million for personnel force protection items, including body armor;
- Full funding for the 2.2 percent military pay raise, effective Jan. 1, 2007; and
- \$500 million above the president's request for National Guard equipment needs.

**Overall Budgetary Highlights:**

- Military Personnel - \$84.9 billion
- Operation and Maintenance - \$120.5 billion
- Procurement - \$81.8 billion
- Research, Development, Test and Evaluation - \$75.3 billion
- Revolving and Management Funds - \$2.4 billion
- Emergency Wartime Appropriations - \$50.0 billion

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